Cosmology, Supergravity and Nilpotent Superfields

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We describe approaches to inflaton dynamics based on Supergravity, the combination of Supersymmetry with General Relativity (GR).

Nowadays it is well established that inflationary Cosmology is accurately explained studying the evolution of a single real scalar field, the inflaton, in a Friedmann, Lemaître, Robertson, Walker geometry. A fundamental scalar field, which described the Higgs particle, was also recently discovered at LHC, confirming the interpretation of the Standard Model as a spontaneously broken phase (BEH mechanism) of a non-abelian Yang-Mills theory (Brout, Englert, Higgs, 1964).
There is then some evidence that Nature is inclined to favor, both in Cosmology and in Particle Physics, theories which use scalar degrees of freedom, even if in diverse ranges of energy scales. Interestingly, there is a cosmological model where the two degrees of freedom, inflaton and Higgs, are identified, the Higgs inflation model (Bezrukov, Shaposhnikov, 2008), where a non-minimal coupling $h^2 R$ of the Higgs field $h$ to gravity is introduced.
Another model based on a $R + R^2$ extension of General Relativity is the **Starobinsky** model \cite{Starobinsky, 1980; Chibisov, Mukhanov, 1981}, which is also conformally equivalent to GR coupled to a scalar field, the **scalaron** \cite{Whitt, 1984}, with a specific form of the scalar potential which drives the inflation:

$$V = V_0 \left(1 - e^{-\sqrt{3} \varphi} \right)^2 \quad V_0 \sim 10^{-9} \text{ in Planck units}$$

These two models (and also a more general class) give the same prediction for the **slow-roll parameters**.
Slow-roll Parameters (as in Starobinsky or Higgs models)

• Spectral index of scalar perturbations (scalar tilt):

\[ n_s = 1 - 6\varepsilon + 2\eta = 1 - \frac{2}{N} \]

• Tensor-to-scalar ratio:

\[ r = 16\varepsilon = \frac{12}{N^2} \]

• \(\varepsilon, \eta, N:\)

\[ \varepsilon = \frac{M_P^2}{2} \left( \frac{V'}{V} \right)^2, \quad \eta = M_P^2 \frac{V''}{V}, \quad N = \frac{1}{M_P^2} \int_{\varphi_{\text{end}}}^{\varphi} \frac{V}{V'} \, d\varphi \]

• \(N\) is the number of \(e\)-folds at the end of inflation
An interesting modification of the Starobinsky potential, suggested by its embedding in $\mathbf{R} + \mathbf{R}^2$ Supergravity \cite{SF, Kallosh, Linde, Porrati; Farakos, Kehagias, Riotto}, involves an $\alpha$-deformed potential

$$V_\alpha = V_0 \left( 1 - e^{-\sqrt{\frac{2}{3\alpha}} \varphi} \right)^2$$

It gives the same result for $n_s$ but now

$$r = \frac{12 \alpha}{N^2}$$

This family of models provides an interpolation between the \textbf{Starobinsky model} (for $\alpha=1$) and the chaotic inflation model (\textit{Linde}) with quadratic potential (for $\alpha \to \infty$)

$$V_\alpha \to m^2 \varphi^2 \quad (V_0/\alpha \text{ fixed}) \quad \text{same } n_s \text{ but } r = \frac{8}{N}$$
The recent 2015 data analysis from Planck-BICEP2 favors the previous (Starobinsky) model with $n_s \approx 0.97, r < 0.1$. The previous expression for $V_\alpha$ can be further generalized by introducing an arbitrary monotonically increasing function $f\left(\tanh\frac{\varphi}{\sqrt{6}\alpha}\right)$ so that

$$V_\alpha(\varphi) = f^2\left(\tanh\frac{\varphi}{\sqrt{6}\alpha}\right), \varphi \to \infty : f\left(\tanh\frac{\varphi}{\sqrt{6}\alpha}\right) \to 1 - e^{-\frac{2}{3\alpha}\varphi} + \ldots$$

These modifications led to introduce the concept of $\alpha$ - attractors (Kallosh, Linde, Roest)
In the sequel we report on the extension of these “single field” inflationary models in the framework of (N=1) Supergravity, where the problem of embedding the inflaton $\phi$ in a supermultiplet and the role of its superpartners will arise.

Inflationary models, in a supersymmetric context, must be embedded in a general Supergravity theory coupled to matter in a FLRW geometry.

Under the assumption that no additional Supersymmetry ($N \geq 2$) is restored in the Early Universe, the most general $N=1$ extension of GR
is obtained coupling the graviton multiplet \((2,3/2)\) to a certain number of chiral multiplets \((1/2,0,0)\), whose complex scalar fields are denoted by \(z^i, i=1...N_s/2\) and to (gauge) vector multiplets \((1,1/2)\), whose vector fields are denoted by \(A^\Lambda_{\mu} (\Lambda=1,..,N_V)\).

These multiplets can acquire supersymmetric masses, and in this case the massive vector multiplet becomes \((1,2(1/2),0)\) eating a chiral multiplet in the supersymmetric version of the BEH mechanism.
For Cosmology, the most relevant part of the Lagrangian (*Cremmer, SF, Girardello, Van Proeyen; Bagger, Witten*) is the sector which contains the scalar fields coupled to the **Einstein-Hilbert** action

\[
\mathcal{L} = - R - \partial_i \partial_j K D_\mu z^i D_\nu \bar{z}^j g^{\mu\nu} - V(z, \bar{z}) + \ldots
\]

*K* is the Kahler potential of the σ-model scalar geometry and the “dots” stand for fermionic terms and gauge interactions.

The scalar covariant derivative is \( D_\mu z^i = \partial_\mu z^i + \delta_\Lambda z^i A_\mu^\Lambda \), where \( \delta_\Lambda z^i \) are Killing vectors. This term allows to write massive vector multiplets *à la Stueckelberg.*
The scalar potential is

\[ V(z^i, \bar{z}^\bar{i}) = e^G \left[ G_i G_{\bar{j}} (G^{-1})^{i \bar{j}} - 3 \right] + \frac{1}{2} (\text{Re} f_{\lambda \Sigma})^{-1} D_{\lambda} D_{\Sigma} \]

\[ G = K + \log |W|^2, \ W(z^i) \text{ superpotential} , \ G_{i \bar{j}} = \partial_i \partial_{\bar{j}} K \]

The first and third non-negative terms are referred to as “F” and “D” term contributions: they explain the possibility of having unbroken Supersymmetry in \textbf{Anti-deSitter} space.

The potential can be recast in the more compact form

\[ V(z^i, \bar{z}^\bar{j}) = F_i F^i + D_\Lambda D^\Lambda - 3 |W|^2 e^K \]

with

\[ F_i = e^{\frac{K}{2}} (W K, i + W, i) , \ D_\Lambda = G, i \delta_{\Lambda} z^i \]
The D term potential can provide a supersymmetric mass term to a vector multiplet and also a deSitter phase, since its contribution to the potential is non negative. Only F breaking terms can give AdS phases.

The (field dependent) matrices $\text{Re} f_{\Lambda \Sigma}$, $\text{Im} f_{\Lambda \Sigma}$ provide the normalizations of the terms quadratic in Yang-Mills curvatures. They could also be of interest for Cosmology, since they give direct couplings of the inflaton to matter.
In a given phase (it could be the inflationary phase of the exit from inflation) unbroken Supersymmetry requires

\[ F_i = D^\Lambda = 0, \text{ so that } V = -3 |W|^2 e^K \]

These are Minkowski or AdS phases depending on whether \( W \) vanishes or not. Supersymmetry is broken if at least one of the \( F_i, D^\Lambda \) does not vanish. Hence in phases with broken Supersymmetry one can have AdS, dS or Minkowski. Therefore one can accommodate both the inflationary phase (dS) and the Particle Physics phase (Minkowski).

However, it is not trivial to construct corresponding models, since the two scales are very different if Supersymmetry is at least partly related to the Hierarchy problem.
In view of the negative term $-3e^G$ present in the scalar potential it may seem impossible (or at least not natural) to retrieve a scalar potential exhibiting a de Sitter phase for large values of a scalar field to be identified with the inflaton. The supersymmetric versions of the $R+R^2$ (Starobinsky) model show how this puzzle is resolved: either the theory has (with F-terms) a no-scale structure, which makes the potential positive along the inflationary trajectory (Cecotti) or the potential is a pure D-term and therefore positive (Cecotti, SF, Porrati, Sabharwal).
These models contain two chiral superfields \((T,S)\) \((Ellis, Nanopoulos, Olive; Kallosh, Linde)\), as in the old minimal version of \(R+R^2\) Supergravity \((Cecotti)\), or one massive vector multiplet \((SF, Kallosh, Linde, Porrati)\), as in the new minimal version.

These models have unbroken Supersymmetry in Minkowski vacuum at the end of inflation. Recently progress was made \((Kallosh, Linde; Dall’Agata, Zwirner)\) to embed two different supersymmetry breaking scales in the inflationary potential in the framework of nilpotent Superfield inflation.
The multiplet $S$, which does not contain the inflaton (T multiplet), is replaced by a **nilpotent superfield** ($S^2 = 0$): this eliminates the sgoldstino scalar from the theory but still its F-component drives inflation or at least participates in it.

This mechanism was first applied to the Starobinsky model, replacing the $S$ field by a **Volkov-Akulov** nilpotent field (Antoniadis, Dudas, SF, Sagnotti) and then to general F-term induced inflationary models (Kallosh, Linde, SF). The construction links “brane SUSY breaking” (Sugimoto; Antoniadis, Dudas, Sagnotti; Aldazabal, Uranga; Angelantonj; Bergshoeff, Dasgupta, Kallosh, Van Proeyen, Wrase) to the superHiggs effect in Supergravity (Cremmer, SF, Girardello, Van Proeyen).
Minimal models for inflation in Supergravity

This class includes models in which the inflaton is identified with the sgoldstino and only one chiral multiplet $T$ is used. However, the $f(R)$ Supergravity models (Ketov) yield potentials that either have no plateau or, when they do, lead to AdS rather than dS phases. (SF, Kallosh, Van Proeyen; SF, Kehagias, Porrati). This also reflects a no-go theorem (Ellis, Nanopoulos, Olive).

A way out of this situation was recently found with “$\alpha$-scale Supergravity” (Roest, Scalisi): adding two superpotentials $W_+ + W_-$. 
which separately give a flat potential along the inflaton \((\text{Re}T)\) direction gives rise to a \textbf{de Sitter plateau} for large \(\text{Re}T\). The problem with these models is that \textbf{the inflaton trajectory is unstable in the} \(\text{Im}T\) \textbf{direction}, but only for small inflaton field: modifications to the superpotential are advocated to generate an inflationary potential. For single-field models and related problems, see also \textit{Ketov, Terada}. 

\textbf{R+R}^2 Supergravity, D-term inflation \((\text{SF, Kallosh, Linde, Porrati; SF, Fré, Sorin}), \ \alpha\text{-attractor scenarios} \ (\text{Kallosh, Linde, Roest, Carrasco}), \ \text{no-scale inflationary models} \ (\text{Ellis, Nanopoulos, Olive}) \ \text{and} \ \alpha\text{-scale models} \ (\text{Roest, Scalisi}) \ \text{have a nice} \ \textbf{SU}(1,1)/\text{U}(1) \ \text{hyperbolic geometry for the inflaton superfield, with}\)

\[ R_\alpha = -\frac{2}{3\alpha} \ , \ n_s \approx 1 - \frac{2}{N} \ , \ r = \frac{12\alpha}{N^2} \]
D-term inflation

An appealing and economical class of models allows to describe any potential of a single scalar field which is the square of a real function \((SF, Kallosh, Linde, Porrati)\): \[ V(\varphi) = \frac{g^2}{2} P^2(\varphi) \]

These are the **D-term models**, which describe the self-interactions of a massive vector multiplet whose scalar component is the inflaton. Up to an integration constant (the Fayet-Iliopoulos term), the potential is fixed by the geometry, since the Kahler metric is

\[ ds^2 = (d\varphi)^2 + (P'(\varphi))^2 \, da^2 \]
After gauging the field $a$ is absorbed by the vector, via $da+gA$, giving rise to a mass term $\frac{g^2}{2} \left( P'(\varphi) \right)^2 A^2_\mu$ (BEH mechanism).

The Starobinsky model corresponds to

$$P(\varphi) = 1 - e^{-\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \varphi}$$

In these models there is no superpotential and only a de Sitter plateau is possible. At the end of inflation $\varphi=0$, $D=0$ and Supersymmetry is recovered in Minkowski space, $V=0$. 
R + R² Supergravity

There are two distinct models depending on the choice of auxiliary fields: old and new minimal.

Off-shell degrees of freedom: $g_{\mu\nu}: 6(10-4)$, $\psi_\mu: 12(16-4)$

$n_B = n_F$ off shell requires six extra bosons:
- old minimal: $A_\mu$, $S$, $P$ (6 DOF’s)
- new minimal: $A_\mu$, $B_{\mu\nu}$, (6 DOF’s, due to gauge invariance)

The $12_B + 12_F$ DOF must fill massive multiplets:

\[
Weyl^2 : (2, 2(3/2), 1), \quad R^2_{old} : 2(1/2, 0, 0), \quad R^2_{new} : (1, 2(1/2), 0)
\]
After **Superconformal** manipulations these two theories are equivalent to standard Supergravity coupled to matter. The new minimal gives D-term inflation as described before, while the old minimal gives F-term inflation with the two chiral superfields $T$ (inflaton multiplet) and $S$ (sgoldstino multiplet).

The $T$ submanifold is $SU(1,1)/U(1)$ with $R = -2/3$, and the no-scale structure of the Kahler potential is responsible for the universal expression

$$V = M^2 M_{Pl}^2 \left( 1 - e^{-\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \varphi} \right)^2$$

along the inflationary trajectory where $F_S \neq 0, F_T = 0 \rightarrow S$: sgoldstino
Other models

Several examples exist with two chiral multiplets of the same sort, for which \( F_S \rightarrow \text{dS plateau} \), \( F_T = 0 \), while at the end of inflation \( F_S = F_T = 0 \) and Supersymmetry is recovered.

A class of models (\( \alpha \) attractors) modify the superpotential but not the Kahler geometry of the original \( \mathbb{R} + \mathbb{R}^2 \) theory (Kallosh, Linde, Roest):

\[
W(S, T) = S f(T), \quad R = - \frac{2}{3 \alpha}
\]

Along the inflationary trajectory the potential \( V \sim |f|^2 \geq 0 \)
An alternative class of models with opposite role for the Kahler potential and the superpotential obtain with 

\[ W(S, T) = S F(T) \]

but with a trivial Kahler geometry,

\[ K = \frac{1}{2} (\Phi + \overline{\Phi})^2 + S \overline{S} \]

The inflaton is now identified with \( \varphi = \text{Im}\Phi \), which avoids the dangerous exponential factor in \( e^K \). Along the inflationary trajectory

\[ V(\varphi) \sim |F(\varphi)|^2 \]

With a trivial Kahler geometry, the inflaton potential is fully encoded in the superpotential shape.
Nilpotent superfields and Cosmology
(sgoldstinoless models)

The problem with the models presented so far resides in the difficulty in obtaining an exit from inflation with broken Supersymmetry much lower than the deSitter plateau scale (Hubble scale during inflation).

A way to solve this problem is to introduce a nilpotent sgldstino multiplet $S$ ($S^2=0$), so that the goldstino lacks a scalar partner. $S$ is the Volkov-Akulov superfield. In this way the stabilization problem is overcome and a deSitter plateau is obtained.
The first examples of cosmological models with a **nilpotent sgoldstino multiplet** was a generalization of the Volkov-Akulov-Starobinsky supergravity \((Antoniadis, Dudas, SF, Sagnotti)\), with \((SF, Kallosh, Linde)\)

\[
W(S, T) = S f(T), \quad V = e^{K(T)} K_{S\bar{S}}^{-1} |f(T)|^2
\]

Models which incorporate separate scales of Supersymmetry breaking during and at the exit of inflation have a trivial (flat) Kahler geometry

\[
K(\Phi, S) = \frac{1}{2} (\Phi + \bar{\Phi})^2 + S \bar{S}
\]
These models differ in the supersymmetry breaking patterns during and after inflation.

- **in the first class of models** *(Kallosh, Linde)*

\[
W(\Phi, S) = M^2 S \left( 1 + g^2(\Phi) \right) + W_0
\]

with \( g(\Phi) \) vanishing at \( \Phi = 0 \) and the inflaton \( \varphi \) identified with its imaginary part. Along the inflaton trajectory \( \text{Re}(\Phi) = 0 \) is then

\[
V = M^4 |g(\varphi)|^2 \left( 2 + |g(\varphi)|^2 \right) + V_0 , \quad V_0 = M^4 - 3 W_0^2
\]

Assuming \( V_0 \approx 0 \), one finds \( m_{3/2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} H \), \( E_{SB} = |F_S|^2 = \sqrt{H M_P} > H \)

\[
V = F_S F^S - 3 W_0^2 , \quad F_\Phi = 0 \text{ during inflation (Re}\Phi = 0) \]
These models differ in the supersymmetry breaking patterns during and after inflation.

- in the **second class of models** (*Dall’Agata, Zwirner*)

\[ W(\Phi, S) = f(\Phi) \left( 1 + \sqrt{3} S \right) \]

which combines **nilpotency** and **no-scale structure**. Here:

\[ \bar{f}(\Phi) = f(-\Phi) \quad f'(0) = 0, f(0) \neq 0 \]

The scalar potential is of **no-scale** type \( \Phi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (a + i \varphi) \)

\[ F^S F_S = 3 e^G = 3 e^{a^2} |f(\Phi)|^2 \]

\[ V(a, \varphi) = F^\Phi F_\Phi = e^{a^2} \left| f'(\Phi) + a \sqrt{2} f(\Phi) \right|^2 \]

\( a \) is stabilized at 0 since \( f \) is even in \( a \). During inflation \( a \) gets a mass \( O(H) \) without mass mixing with \( \Phi \) and is rapidly driven to \( a=0 \).
The inflationary potential is
\[ V(a = 0, \varphi) = \left| f' \left( \frac{i\varphi}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \right|^2, \quad V(0, 0) = 0 \]

These **models lack the fine-tuning** of the previous class \((V_0 = 0)\).

It is interesting to compare the supersymmetry breaking patterns. Here \(F_S\) never vanishes, and at the end of inflation
\[ F_S^S F_S = 3 e^{G(0, 0)} = 3 m_2^2 \]

More in detail,
\[ \langle F_S^S \rangle_{\Phi = 0} = \sqrt{3} f(0), \quad m_2 = |f(0)| \]

and the inflaton potential vanishes at the end of inflation. A choice that reproduces the **Starobinsky potential** is
\[ f(\Phi) = \lambda - i \mu_1 \Phi + \mu_2 e^{i \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} \Phi} \]

Interestingly, \(m_a, m_2\) depend on the integration constant \(\lambda\) but \(m_\varphi\) does not, since \(V\) is independent of \(\lambda\).
Higher-curvature Supergravity and standard Supergravity duals

Work in this direction started with the $R+R^2$ Starobinsky model, whose supersymmetric extension was derived in the late 80’s (Cecotti; Cecotti, SF, Porrati, Sabharwal) and was recently revived in view of new CMB data (SF, Kallosh, Linde, Porrati; Farakos, Kehagias, Riotto; Kallosh, SF, Van Proeyen; Ellis, Nanopoulos, Olive, …). Models dual to higher-derivative theories give more restrictions than their bosonic counterparts or standard Supergravity duals.
Theories with unconstrained superfields also include the Supergravity embedding of $R^2$ duals, whose bosonic counterparts describe standard Einstein gravity coupled to a massless scalar field in \textit{de Sitter space}. These theories were recently resurrected (Kounnas, Lust, Toumbas; Alvarez-Gaumé, Kehagias, Kounnas, Lust, Riotto). The $R^2$ higher curvature Supergravity was recently obtained in both the old and new minimal formulations (SF, Kehagias, Porrati). In the old-minimal formulation, the superspace Lagrangian is

$$\alpha R \bar{R} \bigg|_D - \beta R^3 \bigg|_F$$

where

$$R = \Sigma(\bar{S}_0)/S_0 \ (w = 1, n = 1) \ , \ \bar{D}_\dot{\alpha} R = 0$$
is the scalar curvature multiplet. The dual standard Supergravity has
\[ K = -3 \log \left( T + \bar{T} - \alpha S \bar{S} \right) , \quad W = TS - \beta S^3 \]
where the Kahlerian manifold is \( \text{SU}(2,1)/\text{U}(2) \). Note the rigid scale invariance of the action under
\[ T \rightarrow e^{2\lambda} T , \quad S \rightarrow e^{\lambda} S , \quad S_0 \rightarrow e^{-\lambda} S_0 \]
If \( \alpha = 0 \) S is not dynamical and integrating it out gives an \( \text{SU}(1,1) \) \( \sigma \)-model with
\[ K = -3 \log \left( T + \bar{T} \right) , \quad W = \frac{2 T^\frac{3}{2}}{3 \sqrt{3}{\beta}} \]
Higher-curvature supergravities can be classified by the nilpotency properties of the chiral curvature $\mathcal{R}$. Such nilpotency constraints give rise to dual theories with nilpotent chiral superfields (Antoniadis, Dudas, SF, Sagnotti):

- The constraint

\[ \mathcal{R}^2 = 0 \]

in $R + R^2$ ($R$ is the bosonic scalar curvature) generates a dual theory where the inflaton chiral multiplet $T$ (scalaron) is coupled to the Volkov-Akulov multiplet $S$

\[ S^2 = 0, \quad \overline{D}_\alpha S = 0 \]
For this theory (the V-A-S Supergravity)

\[ K = -3 \log (T + \overline{T} - S \overline{S}) , \quad W = M S T + f S + W_0 \]

and due to its no-scale structure the scalar potential is semi-positive definite

\[ V = \frac{|MT + f|^2}{3 (T + \overline{T})^2} \]

In terms of the canonically normalized field

\[ T = e^\phi \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} + i a \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} , \quad (\phi, a) \text{ in } \frac{SU(1, 1)}{U(1)} \]

it becomes

\[ V = M^2 \frac{2}{12} \left( 1 - e^{-\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \phi} \right)^2 + \frac{M^2}{18} e^{-2 \phi \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} a^2} \]
Here a in axion, which is much heavier than the inflaton during inflation
\[ m^2_\phi \sim \frac{M^2}{9} e^{-2 \phi_0 \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}} \ll m^2_a \equiv \frac{M^2}{9} \]

There are then only two natural supersymmetric models with genuine single-scalar-field \( \phi \) (inflaton) inflation. One is the new-minimal \( R+R^2 \) theory, where the inflaton has a massive vector as bosonic partner, and the V-A-S (sgoldstino-less) Supergravity just described.

Another interesting example is the sgoldstinoless version of the \( \mathcal{R} \mathcal{R} \) theory described before. This is obtained imposing the same constraint as for the V-A-S Supergravity, \( \mathcal{R}^2 = 0 \)

\( (SF, Porrati, Sagnotti) \).
It is dual to the V-A-S Supergravity with $f = W_0 = 0$. The corresponding potential

$$V = M^2 \frac{|T|^2}{3(T + T^*)^2} = \frac{M^2}{12} + \frac{M^2}{18} e^{-2\phi\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}} a^2$$

is positive definite and scale invariant.

This model results in a de Sitter vacuum geometry with a positive vacuum energy

$$V (a = 0) = \frac{g^2}{12} M_{Planck}^4$$
In contrast, the Volkov-Akulov model coupled to Supergravity involves two parameters and its vacuum energy has an arbitrary sign.

The pure V-A theory coupled to Supergravity has indeed a superfield action determined by (Antoniadis, Dudas, SF, Sagnotti)

\[
K = 3 S \bar{S}, \quad W = f S + W_0, \quad S^2 = 0
\]

and cosmological constant

\[
\Lambda = \frac{1}{3} |f|^2 - 3 |W_0|^2
\]
Its full-fledged component expression, including all fermionic terms, was recently worked out \((\text{Bergshoeff, Freedman, Kallosh, Van Proeyen; Hasegawa, Yamada})\)

The higher-curvature supergravity dual \((\text{Dudas, Kehagias, SF, Sagnotti; Antoniadis, Markou})\) is given by the standard (anti-de Sitter) supergravity Lagrangian augmented with the nilpotency constraint

\[
\left( \frac{\mathcal{R}}{S_0} - \lambda \right)^2 = 0
\]

This is equivalent to adding to the action the term

\[
\sigma \left( \frac{\mathcal{R}}{S_0} - \lambda \right)^2 S_0^3 \bigg|_F
\]

where \(\sigma\) is a chiral Lagrange multiplier.
A superfield Legendre transformation and the superspace identity

\[ \left( \Lambda + \Lambda^* \right) S_0 \bar{S}_0 \right]_D = \left( \Lambda \mathcal{R} S_0^2 \right)_F + \text{h.c.} \]

which holds, up to a total derivative, for any chiral superfield \( \Lambda \), turn the action into the V-A superspace action coupled to standard Supergravity with \( f = \lambda - 3 W_0 \), so that supersymmetry is broken whenever \( 3 W_0 \neq \lambda \neq 0 \).

The higher-derivative formulation is peculiar in that the goldstino \( G \) is encoded in the Rarita-Schwinger field. At the linearized level around flat space:

\[ G = -\frac{3}{2\lambda} \left( \gamma^\mu\nu \partial_\mu \psi_\nu - \frac{\lambda}{2} \gamma^\mu \psi_\mu \right), \quad \delta G = \frac{\lambda}{2} \epsilon \]
The linearized equation of motion for the gravitino is

\[ \gamma^\mu{}^\nu{}^\rho \partial_{\nu} \psi_\rho - \frac{\lambda}{6} \gamma^\mu{}^\nu \psi_\nu - \frac{1}{3} \left( \gamma^\mu{}^\nu \partial_{\nu} - \frac{\lambda}{2} \gamma^\mu \right) G = 0 \]

and is gauge invariant under

\[ \delta \psi_\mu = \partial_\mu \epsilon + \frac{\lambda}{6} \gamma_\mu \epsilon \]

The \(\gamma\)-trace and the divergence of the equation of motion both give

\[ \gamma^\mu{}^\nu \partial_\mu \psi_\nu - \gamma^\mu \partial_\mu G = 0 \]

Therefore, gauging away the Goldstino \(G\) one recovers the standard formulation of a massive gravitino.
Old–Minimal Dualities

\[-\Phi S_0 S_0 \bigg|_D + W S_0^3 \bigg|_F, \quad \Phi = \exp \left( -\frac{K}{3} \right)\]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Higher Curvature</th>
<th>Standard Supergravity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$\Phi_H = 1 - h \left( \frac{R}{S_0}, \frac{\bar{R}}{S_0} \right)$</td>
<td>$\Phi_S = 1 + T + \bar{T} - h(S, \bar{S})$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$W_H = W \left( \frac{R}{S_0} \right)$</td>
<td>$W_S = TS + W(S)$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| $\Phi_H = 1$ | $\Phi_S = 1 + T + \bar{T}$ |
| $W_H = W \left( \frac{R}{S_0} \right)$ | $W_S = -SW'(S) + W(S) |_{T=-W'(S)}$ |

| $\Phi_H = -\alpha \frac{R}{S_0} \frac{\bar{R}}{S_0}$ | $\Phi_S = T + \bar{T} - \alpha S \bar{S}$ |
| $W_H = -\beta \frac{R^3}{S_0^3}$ | $W_S = TS - \beta S^3$ |
Nilpotent old–Minimal Dualities

\[-\Phi \, S_0 \, S_0|_D + W \, S_0^3|_F, \quad \Phi = \exp \left( -\frac{K}{3} \right)\]

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<th>Standard Supergravity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

\[
\Phi_H = 1 - \frac{1}{M^2} \frac{R}{S_0} \frac{\bar{R}}{\bar{S}_0} \quad \Phi_S = T + \bar{T} - S \, \bar{S}
\]

\[
W_H = W_0 + \xi \frac{R}{S_0} + \sigma \frac{R^2}{S_0^2} \quad W_s = MTS + fS + W_0
\]

\[
(S^2 = 0, \quad f = \xi - \frac{1}{2})
\]

\[
\Phi_H = -\frac{1}{M^2} \frac{R}{S_0} \frac{\bar{R}}{\bar{S}_0} \quad \Phi_S = T + \bar{T} - S \, \bar{S}
\]

\[
W_H = \sigma \frac{R^2}{S_0^2} \quad W_s = MTS
\]

\[
(S^2 = 0)
\]

\[
\Phi_H = 1 \quad \Phi_S = 1 - S \, \bar{S}
\]

\[
W_H = W_0 + \sigma \left( \frac{R}{S_0} - \lambda \right)^2 \quad W_s = fS + W_0
\]

\[
(S^2 = 0, \quad f = \lambda - 3W_0)
\]
New–Minimal Dualities

\[ \Phi_S = \exp \left( -\frac{K}{3} \right) \]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Higher Curvature</th>
<th>Standard Supergravity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>( \Phi_S = -U \exp U )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( L \log \left( \frac{L}{S_0 S_0} \right) \bigg</td>
<td>_D )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( W_\alpha \left( \frac{L}{S_0 S_0} \right) \bigg</td>
<td>_D )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \Phi_S = (T + \overline{T}) \exp V )</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( W_\alpha \left( \frac{L}{S_0 S_0} \right) \bigg</td>
<td>_F )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We have seen so far that simple models of inflation, such as the supersymmetric version of the Starobinsky model, make use of two chiral multiplets \((S,T)\), the sgoldstino multiplet \(S\) and the inflaton multiplet \(T\). Sgoldstino-less models obtain replacing \(S\) by a nilpotent superfield \((S_{NL}^2=0)\), which is the local version of the V-A multiplet. This should correspond to a linear model where the scalar partners of the goldstino are infinitely heavy. Hence in these models \((S,T) \rightarrow (S_{NL},T)\), with \(S_{NL}^2=0\).
Technically speaking, the sgoldstino becomes a non-dynamical composite field. Following Brignole, Feruglio, Zwirner and Komargodsky, Seiberg, other constraints can be imposed which remove other degrees of freedom of the $T$ multiplet. The most interesting of them is the orthogonality constraint \((SF, Kallosh,Thaler; Carrasco, Kallosh, Linde; Dall’Agata,Farakos)\)

$$S_{NL} (T_{ONL} - \bar{T}_{ONL}) = 0 \quad (S_{NL}^2 = 0)$$

which also implies \((T_{ONL} - \bar{T}_{ONL})^3 = 0\). This constraint removes the inflatino (spin-1/2 partner of the inflaton), as well as the sinflaton (spin-0 partner of the inflaton), so that this description should correspond to a regime where the inflatino and the sinflaton are infinitely heavy. At the end a class of interesting non-linear constraints will be presented.
The new aspect of these “non-chiral” orthogonality constraints is that the $T$-auxiliary field $F_T$ becomes nilpotent and therefore fails to contribute to the scalar potential, which becomes

$$V(\varphi = \text{Re} T) = f^2(\varphi) - 3g^2(\varphi)$$

for a quadratic Kahler potential and a superpotential of the form

$$W(S_{\text{NL}}, T_{\text{ONL}}) = S_{\text{NL}} f(T_{\text{ONL}}) + g(T_{\text{ONL}})$$

$V$ may or may not reproduce the inflaton trajectory for models with a “linear” $T$ multiplet.

This setting presents an advantage with respect to the linear $T$ model because it gets rid of the sinflaton and of its stabilization. It also avoids goldstino-inflation mixing, which makes matter creation in the Early Universe very complicated.
In the unitary gauge, the inflatino field simply vanishes, since it is proportional to the goldstino \((SF, Kallosh, Thaler, Dall’Agata, Zwirner)\).

Orthogonality constraints with \(S_{NL} (S_{NL}^2 = 0)\)

- \(S_{NL} (T_{ONL} - \bar{T}_{ONL}) = 0\)  
  \[\text{sgoldstino-less, inflatino-less, sinflaton-less}\]
  \[\text{implies } (T_{ONL} - \bar{T}_{ONL})^3 = 0\]

- \(S_{NL} T'_{ONL} = \text{chiral}\)  
  \[\text{sgoldstino-less, inflatino-less}\]
  \[\text{implies } S_{NL} \bar{D}_\bar{\alpha} T'_{ONL} = 0\]

- \(S_{NL} T''_{ONL} = 0\)  
  \[\text{sgoldstino-less, scalar-less}\]
  \[\text{implies } (T''_{ONL})^3 = 0\]

- \(S_{NL} W_\alpha (V_{ONL}) = 0\)  
  \[\text{sgoldstino-less, gaugino-less}\]